

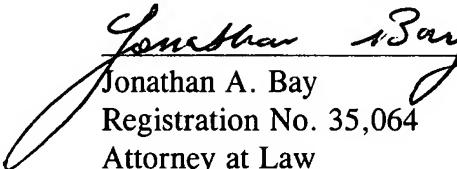
REMARKS

This amendment is made to place the above-identified application in better form for examination in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. No new matter is added. In particular reference to the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, the inserted statement regarding human consumption draws antecedent support from (ie., appearing in the specification as filed) and is repeated exactly from a passage appearing on page 14 in line 5. The same nature of antecedent support provides support for the amendment to claims 4, 11 and 18. Please enter the Preliminary Amendment prior to examination and before calculating filing fees.

Appended hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The appended pages are captioned on the first sheet thereof "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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Version(s) with Markings to Show Changes Made.

In the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3.

In general, the positive indication of premium grade is correlatable to egg shell quality. In turn, egg shell quality is associated with a quality determination of the avian egg as a whole in terms of relating to fertility or hatching or hatchling viability as well as being of sufficient quality for human consumption.

In the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6.

The foregoing is advantageous for poultry [and] including turkey farms having hatchery operations because the eggs sorted into the premium grade are graduated to hatchery operations. The other eggs are removed and either discarded or perhaps sorted for alternative other use such as pet consumption.

In the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 23.

It is an aspect of the invention that the ultrasound inspection is preferably transacted as soon as the eggs are collected from the brood farm. That way, the grading or sorting decision is made as early as possible to extract out the sub-grade eggs before any more resources are expended on them. Accordingly the invention provides advantageous optimization of efficiency especially for high-volume poultry [and] including turkey operations in which optimization and efficiency are paramount.

4(amended). The method of claim 2 wherein the positive indication is correlatable to a given quality determination of egg shell quality which in turn is associated with such a quality determination of the avian egg as relating to fertility or hatching or hatchling viability, or alternatively as being of sufficient quality for human consumption.

11(amended). The method of claim 9 wherein the positive indication of premium grade is correlatable to egg shell quality which in turn is associated with such a quality determination of the avian egg as relating to fertility or hatching or hatchling viability, or alternatively as being of sufficient quality for human consumption.

18(amended). The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the positive indication of premium grade is correlatable to egg shell quality which in turn is associated with such a quality determination of the avian egg as relating to fertility or hatching or hatchling viability, or alternatively as being of sufficient quality for human consumption.